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GENERAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

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SUBJECT SED Proposals for a Central Economic Planning Office

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1. A meeting of leading SED functionaries was held in Potsdam on 29 March for the purpose of discussing economic problems. Sägebrecht, a member of the central Land Committee of the SED, acted as chairman of the meeting. Leuschner of the central secretariat of the SED in Berlin spoke on Economic Reconstruction by Planning.

2. Leuschner commented favorably on the degree of democratization and denazification which has been achieved in the Russian Zone, but maintained that those same forces which brought Hitler into power and are responsible for Germany's desperate situation still predominate in the western zones. In the interest of the working masses, the SED economic plan requires the production of such goods as are needed by the German nation for its economic life. This measure must take precedence over any export proposals and must receive the full support of all SED leaders.

3. Leuschner went on to state that, as regards a future central administration of Germany, the Russians are placing particular emphasis upon the creation of a central planning office. The SED believes that a central office for economic planning is an essential step toward a unified administration of Germany and the eventual establishment of a centralized government. The main functions of such an office would be:

- a. expropriation of large landed properties;
- b. expropriation of monopoly controls in the economy;
- c. preparation for the economic unity of Germany;
- d. development of proposals for the political unity of Germany on the basis of these special planning measures.

4. In closing the meeting, Chairman Sägebrecht stated that these plans have been submitted to the proper Russian economic offices in Karlshorst and have been approved. They are now to be forwarded to Moscow through Russian delegates of the Allied Control Commission.

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CLASSIFICATION

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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